



Fields of Grace Newsletter

Website: fieldsofgracemn.com

Vol. 14, Issue 2

Bernadotte, First & Swan Lake Lutheran

Sept. 2024

FOG SERVICE SCHEDULE, Sept.-Oct.

SEPTEMBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	Sept 1	Joint Worship	BLC*
Week 2	Sept 8	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	Sept 15	SL*	FLC*
Week 4	Sept 22	FLC	BLC
Week 5	Sept 29	Joint Worship	FLC*

OCTOBER 2024			
		8:00 AM	9:30 AM
Week 1	October 6	SL*	FLC* (Note Change)
Week 2	October 13	BLC	FLC*
Week 3	October 20	SL*	BLC* (Note Change)
Week 4	October 27	FLC	BLC

* communion

Flower fundraiser at FLC

Lafayette First Lutheran Ladies are having a flower fundraiser. Bouquets are just \$25, with flower grower Sara Kanuch generously giving a portion of flower sales to the ladies of First Lutheran.



Order by September 11. Call or text Sue Helget at 507-276-5536 or Sara at 507-276-0467—or talk to Laura at Citizens Bank.

Pick up will be Saturday, September 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sara's home at 35596 575th Lane, Lafayette.

Bring your own vase. Sara will precut the flowers or you can cut them yourself.

UPCOMING FOG EVENTS

- **IMPORTANT FIRST LUTHERAN WELCA MEETING, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AFTER CHURCH. AGENDA INCLUDES UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS AND THE FUTURE OF WELCA**
- **FLC FLOWER FUNDRAISER, SARA KANUCH'S HOME, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.**
- **FLC FALL FESTIVAL, FIRST LUTHERAN, 10:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.**



Treating the kids

Pastor Mike as the "go-to guy" for candy for the kids at Lafayette's Night to Unite Tuesday, August 3.

HEADS UP TO FOG MEMBERS!

Special congregational meetings will be held at all three Fields of Grace churches on Sunday, September 22 in regards to calling a new pastor. Further details about the meetings will be emailed or mailed to all members prior to September 12. Watch for the notice. It's important that you attend!!

Looking ahead to fall

Confirmation orientation for students and parents will be Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 25. Class time will be 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., with supper first at 5:30. Confirmation is for grades five through nine.

The 2024-2025 Sunday School season will begin on Sunday, September 29 and will be held at whichever church has the 9:30 service that Sunday.

The road to being a pastor

by Interim Pastor Mike Zaske

Eight months! I have been your interim pastor already for eight months. My how time flies when you're having fun—and I have indeed been having fun (and I hope you've been having a wonderful 2024, too).

Speaking of time flying by, I recently celebrated my 36th wedding anniversary! I must say it's strange to think that I've spent considerably more years of my life being married than I did being single. I've truly reached the point where I have a hard time remembering what it was like to be on my own.

Another recent milestone on my life's journey was the celebration of my 26th anniversary of my ordination back on August 9. Since most people don't travel down that road (the path to becoming a pastor), I thought I'd share a bit about what I went through.

My trek to becoming a pastor began when someone suggested to me that I might make a fine minister back in 1993. That little piece of encouragement is a HUGE reason why I am your current interim pastor. Positive reinforcement is, sadly, something of which our world could use more. Jesus told us to love our neighbor—kindly words of affirmation are a significant way to obey that command.

When you want to apply to attend seminary school to work toward ordained ministry, they don't just accept you with no questions asked. Potential future pastors must first interview with a special committee called the "Candidacy Committee" to determine whether or not this is your true calling. As I recall, I also had to write several long essays and seek a number of references to vouch for me with the committee. At the time, this process annoyed me. Looking back now, I see the wisdom of it—a calling to ministry should NOT be something you just decide on your own to pursue. The community of believers must have a voice as ultimately they issue pastoral calls.

The first hurdle future pastors must clear is the infamous Greek language course which is held over the summer before official classes begin. Because the New Testament of the Bible was written in Greek, it is of some importance that pastors master that language to a decent degree. So, in June of 1994, I spent an excruciating summer studying Greek. Let's just say it wasn't



a particularly fun experience. But I survived and moved on to regular classes starting that fall—and I got a lot smarter because of summer Greek.

The next two years consisted of a series of focused courses in which I learned a lot about God, the Bible, the church in general, and the ins-and-outs of the tasks of being a pastor. Then, in year three, you get to spend a year actually being a "pastor-in-training" as an intern at a real live church. My internship was way up north in Goodridge, MN, where I helped serve three small churches. Those folks taught me so much! I am forever grateful for their love, and especially their patience! When you are training at something you've never done before, you inevitably make mistakes. I certainly did—and the saints in and near Goodridge loved me through them. Trust me, they sat through some unmemorable sermons! I owe them a ton!

Finally, after internship, I had to return to St. Paul (I attended Luther Seminary there) for one concluding year of study. My Candidacy Committee once again had to conduct extensive interviews with me (plus I had to write over 30 pages of responses to various questions) to determine if I was "ready" to become a real, bonafide minister. Their ruling was 'Yes', and thus I was approved to be ordained.

So, that's my story! For the sake of brevity, I haven't spoken much about the numerous times I felt God's hand along the way, gently encouraging me to "just take another step, Mike". But, trust me, God definitely kept guiding me, in big ways and in small. It wasn't easy, by any means. Yet, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything—in part because it led me to Fields of Grace, where I have been enormously blessed for an amazing eight months and counting!

Council Meeting Dates

- FOG Council—Wed., Oct. 9, First Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- Bernadotte Council—to be determined
- First Lutheran—Mon., Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m.

Called to her heavenly home

Bernadotte member Betty Peterson, 91, passed away Saturday, August 10. Her visitation and funeral were Friday, August 16 at Bernadotte Lutheran.

Betty is survived by children Steven (Stephanie Bish) Peterson, Gwen (Gene) Berg, Lori Peterson, and Kurt Peterson; five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and other relatives.



Betty and her husband, the late Lester "Bud" Peterson, farmed in Bernadotte Township before moving to Winthrop. Betty most recently lived at Benedictine St. Gertrude's and The Gardens in Shakopee.

Good News from FOG

It was a family affair when Bernadotte youngsters Lane and Will Dalquist showed sheep at the Nicollet County Fair. It was the first time the boys showed as Cloverbuds, a special program for kids too young for regular 4-H. Mom Laura and aunt Sara were there to help.



SEPTEMBER 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

First Lutheran Church

Ushers: 8-Jay Hagberg, Mark Hagberg; 15-Todd Nelson, Tom Brethorst; 22-Al Hagberg, Jon Hartley; 29-Brian Martens, Randy Sandquist

Reader: (open) Liturgist: (open)

Altar: Lila Ellies, Mary Martens

Coffee: 8-Jo & Dean Pehrson; 15-Lori Brethorst, Char Nelson; 22-Kris Hagberg, Sandy Burger; 29-Carmen Broste, Trudy Hofstad

Bernadotte Lutheran

Greeters: Pam White, Lori Fenske

Ushers: John Nelson, Dave Nelson, Brad & Pam White, Ruth Klossner

Readers: 1-Tim Schulz ; 8-Jim Bartels; 22-Trish Gieseke.

Communion (Sept. 15): S-John Nelson; C-Elias Webster; U-Judy Ross

Coffee: 8, 15, 22-Volunteers needed

Music with a Message at Bernadotte Church Park



Larry Mages provided the music for the third and final 'Music with a Message' outdoor service at the Bernadotte Church Park August 11. Thank you to all who came, and those who helped with set up, tear down, and treats/beverages.

Thank you to Sarah Johnson for taking photos.



Thank you from Randy Peterson's family

The family of Randy Peterson would like to thank everyone for their prayers, sympathy, and words of comfort during Randy's brief illness and passing.

A special thanks to Pastor Mike for the beautiful service, organist Laurie Larson, and the ladies of Bernadotte for the delicious lunch and cakes they served. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Randy will be missed by all, but he is now at peace in a better place.

With Great Appreciation,

Paulette & Allen Botten, Brad & Cathy Peterson, Kevin Peterson

FLC welcomes new members

First Lutheran Church welcomed five new members on Sunday, July 28. They are Logan and Cheyanne VanDeest, Dennis and Cheryl Herring, and Dwayne Fischer.

Dairy association donated to social

Big thanks to the Nicollet County American Dairy Association (ADA) for its generous donation to the Bernadotte Lutheran WELCA Ice Cream Social. The donation helped cover the cost of dairy products—ice cream and milk—for the June social.

Today in church pastor said this:

"If you can trust a puzzle company to make sure every piece is in the box to complete the puzzle, than why can't you trust God that every piece of your life is there for a reason."

3am thoughts

PIC•COLLAGE
PIC•COLLAGE

Fall Festival

First Lutheran Church, Lafayette

October 6th



Farmer's Market & Bake Sale

OUTSIDE 10:30A.M.-1P.M.

Quilt Raffle

DRAWING AT 1P.M.

Meal
10:30a-1p \$15

HAM, MEATBALL, MASHED
POTATO, GRAVY, CORN,
COLESLAW, BUN, PUMPKIN BAR